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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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Date: 8/30/01

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EZ2:

TEXT

SR3

DIA FOR IR BRANCH; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, PREL, BL, FR, SP, PE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: PRESIDENT HERNAN SILES
TO VISIT FRANCE

1. (U) FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO VELARDE ANNOUNCED ON
MARCH 22 THAT PRESIDENT HERNAN SILES ZUAZO WILL DEPART
ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE ON MARCH 26, ARRIVING
IN PARIS ON MARCH 29. EN ROUTE HE WILL MAKE NON-
OFFICIAL TECHNICAL STOPOVERS IN LIMA, PERU AND IN
MADRID, SPAIN. (EARLIER PRESS REPORTS HAD INDICATED
THE LIMA AND MADRID VISITS WOULD BE OFFICIAL.) WITH
SILES WILL TRAVEL VELARDE, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND
COORDINATION ARTURO NUNEZ DEL PRADO, ONE SENATOR,
ONE DEPUTY, AND CHIEF OF THE MILITARY HOUSEHOLD COL.

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EDGAR CLAURE.

2. (U) FOREIGN MINISTER VELARDE POINTED OUT THE "POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE" OF THIS VISIT IN VIEW OF THE COMMONALITY OF THEIR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS AND THE HOPE THAT "EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS" CAN BE EFFECTED. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, RAYMOND CESAIRE, HAD TOLD THE PRESS ON MARCH 19 THAT FRANCE "WILL LEND BOLIVIA ITS FULLEST COOPERATION, BY MEANS OF DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PROJECTS" THAT WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE GOB DEVELOPMENT PLAN. THE PLANNING MINISTER IS MAKING THE TRIP SPECIFICALLY TO ATTEND TECHNICAL MEETINGS TO DETERMINE THE PROJECTS WITH WHICH FRANCE WILL ASSIST.

3. (LOU) COMMENT: THIS PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TAKES THE PLACE OF THE ONE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY BUT CANCELED DUE TO THE CABINET CRISIS TAKING PLACE AT THAT TIME. THE ONE NEW ELEMENT IN THE EQUATION IS THE FEBRUARY 4 EXPULSION OF **KLAUS BARBIE**, WHICH, THE GOB PROBABLY EXPECTS WILL RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE BOTH IN FRANCE AND AT HOME AND POSSIBLE ADDED GOB GENEROSITY. WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONCERN IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY THAT THE TRIP MIGHT BE POSTPONED GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF BOLIVIAN DECISIONMAKING, AS WAS THE ONE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY AND ALSO VELARDE'S SCHEDULED TRIP TO ISRAEL EARLIER THIS MONTH, ALL INDICATIONS AT PRESENT ARE THAT THE VISIT WILL COME OFF AS PLANNED. DRAFTED BY MARY JEANNE REID MARTZ. CORR

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